

Crucible Industries LLC restarts Geddes steel mill



By **Charley Hannagan** | channagan@syracuse.com

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Mike Greenlar / The Post-Standard

The Crucible Industries LLC steel mill in Geddes has restarted operations this week. It sat idle for months following a bankruptcy filing by the plant's former owners.

Geddes, NY -- After months of being idle, **Crucible Industries LLC** this week restarted its Geddes steel mill.

The two melt shops where the company creates the especially hard steel needed to make machine tools and automotive valves started operations Monday, said James Beckman, president of Crucible Industries in an email this morning.

The forge press that hammers steel into shapes began Tuesday, and other operations will start today, he said.

The company will be in "very light production" next week," Beckman said.

The former owners of the company, Crucible Materials Corp., **filed for bankruptcy May 6**, citing the downturn in the automotive industry the major reason it could not repay \$70 million in debts.

Over the summer, customers migrated away to other suppliers as the former owners tried to sell the company, which included operations in suburban Pittsburgh, as well as the Geddes mill.

At a Sept. 21 bankruptcy auction, J.P. Industries Inc., a privately held Cleveland company, **purchased the Crucible Specialty Metals division in Geddes for \$8 million**. It named the new company Crucible Industries LLC.

Leaders of the United Steelworkers of America have expressed concern that the mill lost customers during the bankruptcy. However, Jack Jankovic, a partner in J.P. Industries, has said he believes the mill will win customers back.



It's his intention to run the plant for the long term, Jankovic said.

The company has said it intended to hire back about 160 workers, and to hire another 60 over the next three years as business returns. Last year it had 675 workers.

A legal notice that ran in The Post-Standard on Oct. 27 placed the total cost of the project at \$24.6 million, of which the state Empire Development Corp. has given the company \$8 million in loans and another \$1.5 million to pay for energy costs over three years.

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